

Gull-billed Tern at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary.—While making a routine observation of Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary, on November 26, 1963, we heard a strange call, best syllabised by the words "chup-chup". Two unfamiliar-looking terns were then seen flying around with the other gulls and terns and when they drew closer the squarish tail, black crown and complete lack of white on the forehead were noticed. As they circled they passed almost directly overhead and the black, robust beak and black legs were clearly visible.

The birds were definitely smaller than the Caspian Tern and appeared to be larger than the Crested Tern; though this feature is not supported by the data in reference books. These characters, together with the call (which fits Condon's "kuk-wuk" rendition extremely well) prove conclusively that the birds were Gull-billed Terns (*Sterna nilotica*), this species apparently being a very recent invader of South-Western Australia and not having been reported on very many previous occasions.

—H. ANDERSON and R. H. STRANGER, Nedlands.

Treefern at Bedfordale.—The Rough Treefern, *Cyathea australis* (R.Br.) Domin (*Alsophila australis* R.Br.), has become naturalised at Bedfordale, near Armadale, Western Australia. This treefern is native to Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, and Queensland. It is the more common of the two treefern species of the fern gullies in the Dandenong Range in Victoria, and is becoming increasingly popular as an ornamental in Perth gardens.

On a recent trip to Bedfordale to investigate this treefern population, I visited a local orchardist, Mr. O. J. Dowell, who told me he planted a single plant of *Cyathea* in 1934 on the bank of Nerrigen Brook in the orchard property of his father at "Draycott Gardens," Albany Highway, Bedfordale. From that plant the present population has developed by wind and water dispersal of spores.

At present, there are about a hundred mature plants along some two miles of Nerrigen Brook and tributary creeks, and associated with them are numerous areas of prothallia and sporlings on the creek embankments where braeken, scrub and grasses afford these tender juvenile stages sufficient shelter. Although the fern community is, as yet, confined to water courses in orchards along the valley the creek banks bear some original scrub and braeken as well as dense thickets of pasture grasses, so I think we can consider the community naturalised under semi-natural conditions.

—G. G. SMITH, Botany Department, University of W.A., Nedlands.

Early Arrival of White-winged Triller, *Lalage suewii*, in the South-West.—On a recent visit to Dargin—August 25, 1963—I found at least two male Trillers in a remnant of Wandoo forest. One of these was adding to a part-constructed nest 16 ft. from the ground

in a horizontal fork of a Wandoo (*Eucalyptus redunca*). Other birds were located later in another Wandoo area.

When transcribing my field notes relating to the foregoing observations, I noticed that I had recorded this species at Dangin on September 1, 1958, and also on September 2, 1956, when I noted three birds.

In each of these three cases the birds could have arrived earlier than the date of observation, i.e. prior to my own arrival in the district.

As the *Birds of Western Australia* (Serventy and Whittell) states: "The Triller is a strict migrant to the southern parts of the State, arriving during the latter half of September or beginning of October . . ." the foregoing observations suggest early arrivals.

Other early observations which appear in my records are:

Aug. 17, 1935. Nangeenan. A hen.

Sept. 12, 1937. Dangin. A number.

June 21, 1943. Dangin. Species noted without comment. There appears no reason for doubting this observation but as this date is well outside the normal period of occurrence and there are no supporting details, the record is perhaps better treated with reserve.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.

Callitriche hamulata Ktzig. (Callitrichaceae) in Western Australia.—The Starwort, *C. hamulata* Ktzig., is now recorded for the first time for Western Australia. Specimens were collected at Benger (90 miles south of Perth), in a sub-coastal swamp by Mr. W. B. Hitchcock, on October 22, 1963 (CANB. 136138). In recent literature (R. Mason, *Aust. J. Bot.*, 7, 1959: 295-327; G. G. Smith and N. G. Marehant, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 8, 1961: 15), the only species of *Callitriche* recorded for Western Australia is *C. stagnalis* Scop. Mason regards both *C. stagnalis* and *C. hamulata* as being adventive in Australia.

Mr. Hitchcock, of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research, informs me as follows (pers. comm.): "The swamp where the specimen was collected is a breeding habitat for certain ducks and other waterfowl, including the comparatively rare Freckled Duck, *Stictonetta naevosa*. I am indebted to Mr. Reg Taylor of Benger for the opportunity of briefly inspecting this swamp."

There seems to be no general agreement among British and European botanists as to the correct name or status of this species.

J. E. Dandy (*List of British Vascular Plants*, 1958) regards both *C. hamulata* and *C. pedunculata* DC., as synonyms of *C. intermedia* Hoffm., while Clapham, Tutin and Warburg (*Flora of the British Isles*, 1962) regard them "in the absence of more precise cytogenetical and ecological information," as subspecies of *C. intermedia*.

H. D. Schotsman (*Acta Botanica Neerlandica*, 5 (3), 1954: 355), however, gives reasons why she believes that *C. hamulata* at least, should not be connected with *C. intermedia*.

The Benger specimen seems to agree more closely with de-